



Bikeable Design

INTRODUCTION



City of Los Angeles
Department of City Planning

Chapter One: Introduction

This chapter presents information on the toolkit's:

- background
- purpose
- intended audience
- intended role in the bicycle planning process

Organization

This toolkit is organized into five chapters. Chapters 2 through 4 contain the toolkit's design guidelines.



Photo by Georgia Sheridan

Chapter 1: Introduction

Outlines the toolkit's background and purpose.



Photo by Eric Richardson

Chapter 2: Key Design Strategies

Provides an easy-to-use list of key applicable design strategies for planning staff and developers to use during the planning process.



Photo by Alison Manushkin

Chapter 3: Design Toolkit

Provides recommended design strategies to create a bike-friendly private development.



Photo courtesy of imagebroker.net

Chapter 4: Site Typologies

Outlines design strategies for common land uses (i.e. retail, office, multi-family residential).



Photo courtesy of Inhabitat.com

Chapter 5: Resources

Provides resources and acknowledgements.

Background & Purpose

BACKGROUND

While bicycles were an important form of transportation in American cities during the early 1900s, their importance waned post-WWII with the boom of automobiles and the proliferation of auto-oriented development. In the last thirty years, bicycling has regained momentum as an alternative mode of transportation in many large U.S. cities and has spurred a slow yet steady growth of public investment into bicycle infrastructure. During this time period, the number of annual bicycle trips has more than doubled, from 1.7 billion annual trips in 1990 to 4.0 billion annual trips in 2009.

In 2011, the City of Los Angeles approved the updated Los Angeles Bicycle Master Plan which documents the plans, methods, and goals of the City to improve its bicycle infrastructure. The document plans for a future network of 1,680 miles of interconnected bikeways, including more than 200 miles of new bicycle routes every five years. The City continues to improve bicycling conditions in Los Angeles after the passage of the Master Plan by adopting bicycle parking regulations for private developments effective March 2013. In March 2012, after 37 years, Los Angeles County adopted a new Bicycle Master Plan. These documents, along with the recent announcement that the City of Los Angeles will pursue a bike share program, are changing the landscape of bicycle planning in the Los Angeles area.

The purpose of this toolkit is to provide a widely applicable set of design interventions to help create bike-friendly development in Los Angeles.

PURPOSE

The toolkit is intended for developers, planners, designers, and any other interested parties who seek guidance on how to implement effective bicycle facilities and amenities into private development to create a more bicycle-friendly city. It contains the requirements from the City of Los Angeles bicycle parking regulations along with recommendations for best practices from around the world. This toolkit should be used during the early stages of site and building design to help identify where and what type of bicycle infrastructure should be included in the site for new development. The toolkit can also be used as a guide for existing development to retrofit their site and building for improved bikeability.

CONTENTS

The toolkit provides a set of design strategies to create bike-friendly development. The design strategies are organized into several categories to address common issues and questions that arise when creating bike-friendly development (i.e. how much bike parking is needed? where should the parking be placed? how do bicyclists find bike parking?)

The toolkit also addresses when and where the design strategies should be used according to different site typologies (i.e. office, multi-family, commercial) to explain how bicycle needs vary with different land uses.

A simple design checklist can be found on pages 6-7 to provide a quick reference guide and summary of all the design tools in this document.